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CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

1954

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SUMMARY STATISTICS OF PRISONERS AND PAROLEES

Prepared for the
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

By the
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL STATISTICS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Sacramento, California

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FOREWORD

This is the fifth in the series of annual reports presenting facts on California prisoners. The gathering and reporting of this information has been done carefully and accurately. The persons responsible are deserving of our sincere appreciation.

The data in this report are organized in four sections: Institutional Population and Movement, Prisoners Received From Court, Prisoners Released From Prison, and Parole Population and Movement.

We who are responsible for and interested in the administration of criminal justice will find many uses for the basic information in this report.

RICHARD A. MCGEE
Director of Corrections

Sacramento, California
December 1, 1955

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CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

1954

SUMMARY

PRISON POPULATION AT HIGH POINT

On December 31, 1954, the total population of the institutions of the Department of Corrections was 15,376, an increase of 1,227 during the year. This population was composed of 13,896 men and 544 women under felony commitments, 860 youths under commitment to the Youth Authority but cared for in the institutions of the Department of Corrections, and 76 other persons under special commitments.

Since 1944, when the Department of Corrections was established, the prison population has risen from 5,710 to 15,376, an increase of 9,666 inmates or 169 percent. Thus, in 10 years, the department has faced the tremendous problem of reorganizing the California prison system to provide additional housing facilities to care for this increased population and to develop suitable diversified programs in custody and treatment for the beneficial training and occupation of the inmates to prevent their moral and physical disintegration.

ADMISSION

A total of 4,003 men and 229 women were received as new persons committed to prison during 1954 as compared with 3,892 men and 179 women received in 1953. When the number of men committed is related to state population, there is no increase in this 1954 rate of commitment over that for 1953.

Offense

There were increases in the rates of admission for those men committed for narcotics offenses, theft except auto, and burglary. Significantly, the crimes of violence, as homicide, robbery, assault, and sex offenses, had decreased rates. The commitment rate of those convicted for auto theft also was less.

County or Area of Commitment

As compared with the commitment rates of 1953, the 1954 rates for men showed a small increase in Los Angeles County and a decrease in the other Southern California counties. The rates decreased in the Bay area counties other than San Francisco and in the Sacramento Valley counties.

Age at Admission

There was a very slight shift toward an older age group for both men and women committed to prison in 1954. The median age of men at

admission changed from 28.5 years in 1953, to 29.0 years in 1954, and that of the women, from 29.6 to 30.3. Likewise, the percent of total admissions who were under 25 years old dropped from 31.3 percent in 1953, to 28.2 percent in 1954, for the men and from 26.8 to 25.7 percent for the women.

The availability of the Youth Authority facilities for those under 21 years and the use of probation for younger offenders, which may account for the decreased population of those committed under 25 years of age, is a hopeful trend.

Prior Criminal Record

Of the men newly committed to prison in 1954, about 15 percent had no record of a prior commitment, 49 percent had been committed to jail or juvenile institutions previously, and 36 percent had prior prison commitments. Of the women, 11 percent had a record of prior commitment to a prison type institution. Thus, a relatively small proportion of the men committed to prison are first offenders. The first offenders probably are being given probationary sentences.

The prison programs must be gaged to influence the recidivists as about 85 percent of the men committed have served prior sentences. Therefore programs of intensive treatment must be instigated and maintained if any permanent beneficial results are to be obtained in this recidivist group.

RELEASE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON

Method of Release

Of the 3,310 men first released from prison during 1954, 87 percent were released on parole, 11 percent were discharged from prison at expiration of sentence and 1.7 percent died in prison or were executed.

First Parole. The median time served before parole by the 2,874 men released on parole for the first time in 1954 was 30 months, the same as it has been for the prior three years. For narcotics cases the median time served rose from 24 months in 1953, to 27 months in 1954. There were no substantial changes between the 1953 and the 1954 medians of time served by the other offense groups.

Reparole. Men returned to prison as technical parole violators who again were paroled during 1954 served a median time of 20 months. Men returned to prison as parole violators with new felony commitments served a median time of 44 months before rep parole.

Expiration of Sentence

The median time served before discharge from prison by the 379 men who were released for the first time at expiration of sentence was 24 months. For those who had been returned to prison as technical parole violators and remained in the prison until the expiration of their term, the median time was 20 months. For those who had been returned with new felony commitments and who remained in prison until the expiration of their sentence, the median served was 48.5 months.

PAROLE TERMINATION

Method of Termination

In 1954, the total number of men whose paroles were terminated was 2,977. Of these, 1,493 were suspended and ordered returned to prison, 1,429 were discharged at expiration of sentence, and 55 died.

Time on Parole Before Discharge

Those men who were on parole for the first time and whose sentences expired during 1954 had served a median time of 30 months on parole. This was an increase from the median time of 27 months served by the similar group discharged from parole in 1953.

Persons committed for crimes against property served a lesser time on parole than those committed for more serious and violent crimes which is in keeping with public desire as expressed in statutory law.

Suspension

The cumulative proportion of male parolees who violated during their first year of parole and each successive year thereafter shows that in recent years the proportion of men being suspended the first year or two of parole is decreasing.

INTRODUCTION

This report on California prisoners sets forth statistical information for the calendar year 1954 compared with the year 1953. All persons who are convicted of felony offenses in the superior courts of California and sentenced to the state prisons are committed to the custody of the Director of Corrections. Men are delivered to one of two reception-guidance centers, located at the California State Prison at San Quentin for men convicted in the northern part of the State and at the California Institution for Men at Chino for those in the southern area. All women committed to prison are received at the California Institution for Women at Corona. After diagnostic study by the reception-guidance centers staffs and with the approval of the Director of Corrections, the men are transferred to one of seven institutions for treatment. They may be transferred among the institutions or to camp as is appropriate for the particular training needs of the individual. The women after initial study remain at the California Institution for Women.

The great preponderance of prisoners in the Department of Corrections are adult felons committed to the Director of Corrections after conviction in the superior courts; however, other types of inmates under special sections of the law are housed in the institutions of the department. The largest additional group consists of young males who have been committed to the Department of the Youth Authority, and who have been placed by that authority in an institution of the Department of Corrections. Most of these youths who might benefit from a program of vocational training are confined in the Deuel Vocational Institution, which was established to care for young men committed to either the Youth Authority or the Department of Corrections. At the present time this institution, with a capacity of 1,200 beds, is housing 800 Youth Authority boys and 400 adult prisoners. In addition to these youths there are other specialized types of prisoners being cared for by the department, such as recalcitrant tubercular defendants committed to the custody of the State Department of Public Health and placed by it in the California Medical Facility, some sex psychopaths and psychopathic delinquents placed, for custodial reasons, in the institutions of the Department of Corrections by the Department of Mental Hygiene. As will be seen in the detailed information presented, these specialized types account only for a very small portion of the total number of prisoners.

This statistical analysis of California prisoners reviews information not only on persons who were committed to the control and custody of the Director of Corrections, but also on the determinations made by the two sentencing and paroling authorities. With the exception of persons committed under the death penalty or for a definite term of life, as after conviction for first degree murder, all others are committed to the Di-

rector of Corrections under the indeterminate sentence provided by law for the particular offense involved. The determination of the length of sentence and how long a man will serve in prison before parole, if he is paroled, is made by the Adult Authority. In the case of women, the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women has the same powers of determining sentence and parole for the inmates of this institution as the Adult Authority has for the men.

While persons committed to the Director of Corrections under California law remain in his official custody until the expiration of their sentences, those who are released on parole are supervised by agencies that are independent of the Director of Corrections. Male parolees are supervised by the Division of Adult Paroles which is under the administrative control of the Adult Authority, and women parolees are supervised by women parole officers under the jurisdiction of the board of trustees.

The Adult Authority and the board of trustees have an interest in the general policies which govern the administration of the institutions, just as the Director of Corrections has an interest in the general determinations of sentence and time served in prison. The three administrative entities meet in consideration of these policies.

In presenting information relating to time served, two general measures will be used, the median time served and the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases within the class. The median is the most acceptable average for purposes of measuring time served as it is the middle case in any group when all are arranged in order from lowest to highest, and cannot be influenced, as is the arithmetic average, by the extreme values particularly of the cases with the longest time served. The range of the middle 80 percent of the cases also is a better representative of the general spread of the total group than is the entire range from one extreme to the other. By eliminating the extreme cases that occur in the lowest 10 percent and the highest 10 percent of the distribution, attention is concentrated on the time served by the more stabilized middle four-fifths of the cases.

Annual data and some historical data are presented in this report in four sections: first, institutional population and movement; second, prisoners received from court; third, prisoners released from prison; and fourth, parole population and movement.

INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

During the year 1954, the total population of the institutions in the California Department of Corrections increased by 1,227 to a population of 15,376 on December 31, 1954. The following figures show the California prison population and the annual increase for the past 10 years:

<i>December 31st</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Annual increase</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1944.....	5,710		.....
1945.....	6,628	918	16.1
1946.....	7,839	1,211	18.3
1947.....	9,036	1,197	15.3
1948.....	10,084	1,048	11.6
1949.....	10,899	815	8.1
1950.....	11,598	699	6.4
1951.....	11,939	341	2.9
1952.....	13,169	1,230	10.3
1953.....	14,149	980	7.4
1954.....	15,376	1,227	8.7

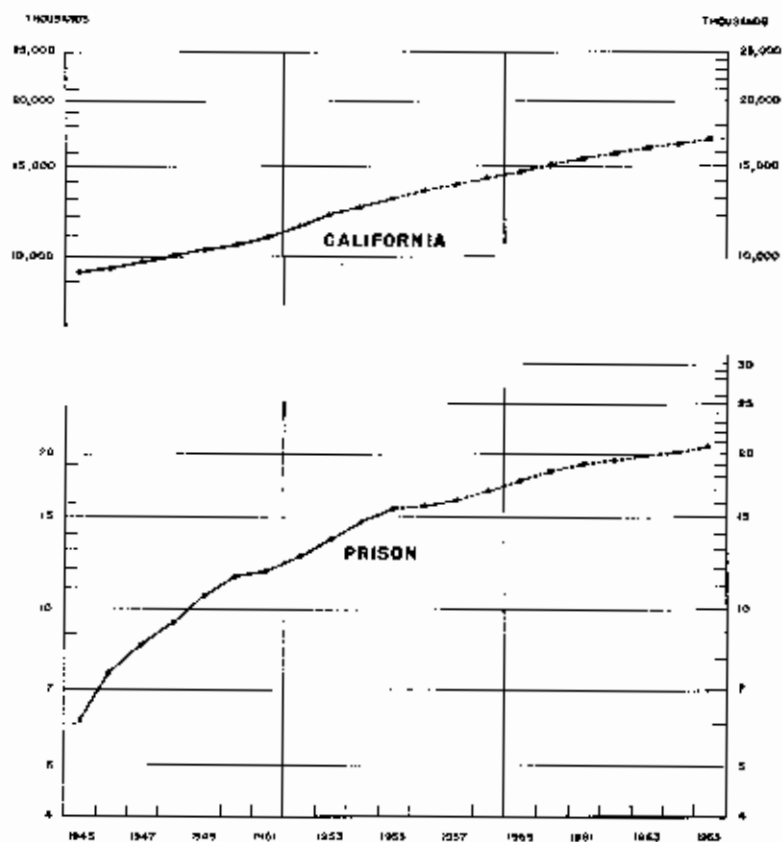
During the first half of the 10-year period, there was an increase of 5,189 in total population and during the last five years there was an increase of 4,477. This was an average increase of over 1,000 persons per year for the first period and 900 per year for the second. The increase for the calendar year 1954 was the second largest numerical increase that occurred during the 10-year period and was an increase of 8.7 percent over the population for December 31, 1953.

At the beginning of this 10-year period, prison population in California and throughout the United States was at an unusual low as it was the last years of World War II. Consequently the rapid growth that occurred during the first three or possibly four years of this period may be considered a return to the normal prison population following the unusual war conditions. There is no question but that part of the growth in prison population during the second five-year period is due to the general increase in California population, but it remains that the prison rate of increase was greater than the state population growth. For this period, the five-year average annual rate of increase was 7 percent in prison population and 4 percent in California population; in fact, for the California population in the age group 15-64 years the average increase was only 3.3 percent. The latter percents are based on total population figures including civilian and military, published July, 1955, by the California State Department of Finance. The comparison of the actual growth in prison population and total California population for the period 1945-1955, and of the estimated growth to 1965, is shown in Chart I.

CHART 1

CALIFORNIA AND PRISON POPULATION

1945 - 1965



Of necessity more institutions and facilities had to be provided to care for the prison population that has nearly tripled in the last 10 years. At the beginning of 1945 there were just four institutions in existence, Folsom, San Quentin, the California Institution for Men at Chino, and the California Institution for Women then located at Tehachapi. Since 1945 there has come into being four new institutions and a major branch of another. The Deuel Vocational Institution first was established in 1946 at a temporary site near Lancaster, and moved to the new permanent institution at Tracy during the summer of 1953. A new medium security prison built near Soledad was occupied in 1950. The California Medical Facility established on a temporary basis in 1949 by using federal facilities available at Terminal Island was moved into the new permanent institution at Vacaville during May, 1955. In the latter part of 1954, the California Men's Colony was established on an Army and National Guard camp site near San Luis Obispo. At the end of 1954 the institution at Tehachapi, which was occupied formerly by the women prisoners before their removal to their new institution near Corona in August, 1952, was ready to be reopened as a branch of the California Institution for Men to care for about 500 men.

In addition to the institutional facilities, the Department of Corrections in cooperation with the California Department of Public Works and the California Department of Natural Resources operates three permanent highway camps and 10 permanent forestry camps which house approximately 800 men. On December 31, 1954, the population of these camps was 803 as compared with 633 on the last day of December, 1949, and 529 on December 31, 1944.

The distribution of the total population by institution is shown for the last day of the year for each of the past five years in Table 1. The camps are operated by the four larger institutions and the camp population is included in the institutional totals.

TABLE 1
POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA PRISONS
December 31, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, and 1954

Institution	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Total.....	11,398	11,939	13,169	14,149	15,376
California Institution for Men.....	1,781	2,096	2,165	2,184	2,213
California Men's Colony.....					443
Deuel Vocational Institution.....	543	475	557	991	1,206
Folsom Prison.....	2,753	2,392	2,237	2,678	2,716
Medical Facility.....	662	1,010	1,042	1,089	1,017
San Quentin Prison.....	4,712	4,742	4,841	4,748	4,851
Soledad Prison.....	822	856	1,952	2,008	2,186
California Institution for Women.....	325	388	415	449	544

The general movement of population in and out of the institutions is shown in Table 2 for both 1953 and 1954 by sex and type of commit-

TABLE 2
MOVEMENT OF PRISON POPULATION
1953 and 1954

Movement	1953					1954				
	Total	Men			Women	Total	Men			Women
		Adult felons	Youth Authority	Other			Adult felons	Youth Authority	Other	
Population, January 1.....	13,169	12,071	634	29	415	14,149	12,814	853	52	490
Total received.....	7,141	5,568	1,226	72	275	7,179	5,790	1,172	98	319
First commitments.....	4,071	3,892	--	--	179	4,332	4,003	--	--	229
Parole violators returned.....	999	946	--	--	53	1,292	1,227	--	--	65
With new commitments.....	463	453	--	--	10	683	665	--	--	16
Without new commitments.....	526	493	--	--	43	611	562	--	--	49
Escapes returned.....	66	45	3	--	19	32	47	4	--	1
Returned from court.....	570	552	4	--	14	508	497	1	--	10
Returned from state hospital.....	10	1	--	--	9	13	--	--	--	13
Youth Authority commitments.....	1,220	--	1,219	--	1	1,168	--	1,167	--	1
All other.....	205	132	1	72	--	114	16	--	98	--
Total released.....	6,161	4,825	1,047	49	280	6,152	4,708	1,145	74	213
Discharged, expiration of sentence.....	822	822	--	--	--	778	776	--	--	2
Paroled.....	3,381	3,181	--	--	200	3,462	3,272	--	--	190
Died.....	47	45	1	--	1	69	63	1	1	2
Executed.....	8	8	--	--	--	9	9	--	--	--
Escapes.....	64	47	3	--	13	72	65	4	--	3
To court.....	538	570	3	--	15	500	489	1	--	10
To state hospital.....	20	12	--	--	8	31	7	--	--	14
To Youth Authority.....	1,041	--	1,041	--	--	1,141	--	1,139	--	2
All other.....	190	140	--	49	1	100	27	--	71	2
Population, December 31.....	14,149	12,814	893	52	430	15,376	13,896	880	76	544
Population increase.....	980	743	179	23	35	1,227	1,082	27	24	94

ment. The number of persons received from court on original commitment increased from 4,071 in 1953 to 4,232 in 1954. The great majority of these commitments were men; the extremely small numbers of women constituted about 4 and 5 percent of these annual totals.

The 4,232 persons received in prison on first commitments and the 681 parole violators returned with new commitments do not represent all of the commitments received on prisoners during 1954. Very frequently persons already in prison are taken out to court to have additional commitments assessed against them, or they may have had a prior probation which is revoked as a result of their present incarceration. In order to account for all the individuals on whom commitments were received during the year 1954, Table 3 is presented which shows the general types of commitments by sex. There were 5,505 on whom commitments were received during the year. Of this total number, 4,944 were direct commitments to prison for a new offense, while 561 represented commitments not for new offenses but by reason of revocation of probation on a former offense. To illustrate how close the agreement is between the number of persons on whom commitments were received by the Department of Corrections and the number of persons sentenced by the superior courts: The publication *Crime in California 1954* reported that the 58 counties of the State sent 4,902 persons to prison on direct commitments, and the figures of the Department of Corrections show there was a total of 4,944 persons on whom direct commitments were received. Inasmuch as the time of sentence and the time of receipt are not exactly the same, it would appear that these two figures accurately account for the persons committed to prison.

TABLE 3
PRISONERS ON WHOM SUPERIOR COURT COMMITMENTS WERE RECEIVED
1954

Classification of prisoner	Total	Men	Women
Total commitments.....	5,505	5,239	266
Total direct commitments.....	4,944	4,706	238
Total probation revoked commitments.....	561	533	28
First admission to prison.....	4,232	4,003	229
Direct commitment.....	4,066	3,850	216
Probation revoked, only.....	166	153	13
Parole violator returned with new sentence.....	681	665	16
Escapes returned with new direct commitment.....	40	39	1
Person already in prison on whom additional commitment received.....	272	265	7
Direct commitment.....	157	152	5
Probation revoked, only.....	115	113	2
Probation revoked commitment received along with direct commitment.....	280	267	13

PRISONERS RECEIVED FROM COURT

A description of the general characteristics of the persons newly committed to prison from superior court gives some indication as to the kinds of persons being received each year. The four basic characteristics are offense, county or area of commitment, age at admission, and prior criminal record. For the men and the women each of these characteristics is presented separately, comparing admissions during 1954 with those during 1953.

Although the number of commitments during 1954 increased over the previous year, so too did California's population. The number of felons committed to prison out of every 100,000 persons resident in California is shown in tabular presentations for offense and for county of commitment. These commitment rates are based on estimates of total population since estimates are not available on a county breakdown by age or by sex. The primary reason for presenting these rates is that the year by year comparisons show the increase or decrease in number of commitments adjusted for state population growth.

OFFENSE

All persons committed to prison are classified according to the specific offense of which they were convicted. In the case where a person is convicted of more than one type of offense, he is assigned the classification of the most serious offense in terms of maximum possible sentence. The offense distribution of persons committed during 1953 and 1954, and of the comparisons of the commitment rates for each year are shown in Table 4A for the men and Table 4B for the women.

The total number of male commitments newly received from court in 1954 was 4,003, a slight increase over the 1953 number. However, when the increase in commitments is adjusted for population growth there was actually a decrease of seven-tenths of 1 percent. This generalization does not apply to the varieties of offenses. Only one offense group, forgery and checks, showed no particular change. Of narcotic commitments, even when adjusted for population growth there was a 28 percent rise over 1953. Two other offense groups, theft except auto and burglary, also showed increases over population growth. Decreases were shown for all other types of offenses, including sex offenses, assault, robbery, homicide, and auto theft. Among the miscellaneous other offense group, it will be noted the commitments for escape from camp or jail dropped from 99 in 1953 to 36 in 1954. This probably was due to the change in the law which made nonviolent escapes from a jail or a camp a misdemeanor rather than a felony.

To allow for state population growth, the rates of commitment for some offenses were computed for each year since 1950. These rates are

TABLE 4A
OFFENSE GROUPS
Male Prisoners Received From Court, 1953 and 1954

Offense	1953		1954		Percent change in rate 1954 over 1953†
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	3,892	32.0	4,001	31.8	-0.7
Homicide.....	151	1.3	147	1.2	-5.7
Murder 1st.....	36	--	28	--	--
Murder 2d.....	52	--	51	--	--
Manslaughter.....	57	--	61	--	--
Manslaughter by vehicle.....	6	--	7	--	--
Robbery.....	726	6.0	679	5.4	-9.7
Robbery 1st.....	468	--	435	--	--
Robbery 2d.....	232	--	191	--	--
Other.....	26	--	33	--	--
Assault.....	121	1.0	106	0.8	-15.1
Assault with deadly weapon.....	102	--	85	--	--
Other.....	19	--	21	--	--
Burglary.....	733	6.0	802	6.4	5.8
Burglary 1st.....	77	--	84	--	--
Burglary 2d.....	615	--	684	--	--
Other.....	21	--	34	--	--
Theft except auto.....	244	2.0	278	2.2	10.0
Grand theft.....	170	--	174	--	--
Petty theft with value.....	52	--	81	--	--
Receiving stolen property.....	22	--	23	--	--
Auto theft.....	193	1.6	190	1.5	-5.0
Forgery and checks.....	722	6.0	751	6.0	0.4
Sex offenses.....	308	2.5	242	1.9	-24.1
Rape.....	123	--	74	--	--
Lewd acts with children.....	116	--	105	--	--
Other.....	69	--	63	--	--
Narcotics.....	490	4.0	650	5.2	28.0
Other offenses.....	204	1.7	158	1.3	-25.6
Deadly weapons.....	23	--	13	--	--
Drunk driving.....	11	--	16	--	--
Failure to render aid.....	10	--	5	--	--
Abortion.....	10	--	2	--	--
Arson.....	10	--	13	--	--
Escape.....	99	--	36	--	--
Kidnaping.....	10	--	24	--	--
Habitual criminal.....	4	--	2	--	--
Other.....	27	--	45	--	--

*Source: California population estimates from State Department of Finance, "Estimated Population of California's Areas and Counties, 1950-1955," November, 1955, p. 16.

†Computed from 1953 and 1954 commitment rates of two decimal places.

TABLE 4B
OFFENSE GROUPS
Women Prisoners Received From Court, 1953 and 1954

Offense	1953		1954		Percent change in rate 1954 over 1953†
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	179	1.5	229	1.8	23.8
Homicide.....	29	0.2	28	0.2	-8.1
Murder 1st.....	4	--	3	--	--
Murder 2d.....	7	--	8	--	--
Manslaughter.....	18	--	17	--	--
Robbery.....	12	--	11	--	--
Assault.....	4	--	11	--	--
Burglary.....	11	--	12	--	--
Theft.....	15	--	24	--	--
Forgery and checks.....	60	0.5	73	0.6	18.4
Sex offenses.....	2	--	4	--	--
Narcotics.....	34	0.3	52	0.4	46.4
Other offenses.....	12	--	14	--	--

*Source: California population estimates from State Department of Finance, "Estimated Population of California's Areas and Counties, 1950-1955," November, 1953, p. 16.

†Computed from 1953 and 1954 commitment rates of two decimal places.

contrasted pictorially in Chart II for the offenses in which there were more than 200 male commitments during 1954.

The number of women committed increased from 179 during 1953 to 229 during 1954. Narcotics commitments accounted for a large share of this increase; there were 34 women committed during 1953 and 52 during 1954.

COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT

While there was almost no change between 1953 and 1954 in the state-wide commitment rates of male prisoners received from court per 100,000 population, geographical variations are shown in Table 5A. The number of commitments from Los Angeles County when adjusted for population growth of that particular county increased 7 percent. This increase was somewhat offset by the other southern counties, so that the adjusted increase for Southern California counties was 1.2 percent. Each of the other two subdivisions of the State, having only about one-third as many commitments as the southern area, showed decreases. In these groups, Alameda County showed an adjusted decrease of 9 percent and the 10 Sacramento Valley counties, a decrease of 17 percent.

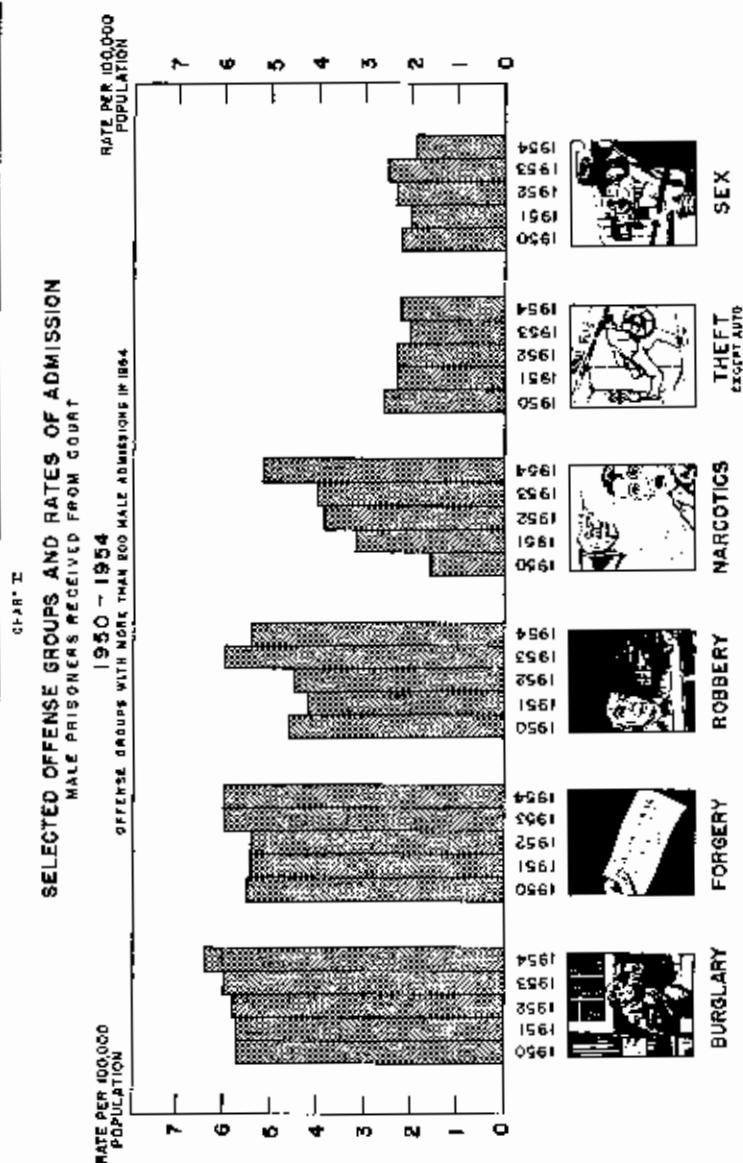


TABLE 5A
COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
Male Prisoners Received From Court, 1953 and 1954

County or area of commitment	1953		1954		Percent change in rate 1954 over 1953†
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	3,892	32.0	4,003	31.8	-0.7
Southern California.....	2,294	32.9	2,426	35.3	1.2
Los Angeles.....	1,438	30.2	1,617	32.2	6.9
9 other counties.....	856	38.7	809	35.6	-8.1
San Francisco Bay area.....	706	25.5	692	22.4	-4.8
Alameda.....	186	25.0	175	20.8	-9.7
San Francisco.....	295	37.4	304	38.1	1.7
7 other counties.....	222	15.8	213	14.6	-7.5
Balance of State.....	892	40.9	885	40.1	-2.0
10 Sacramento Valley.....	219	34.3	189	28.4	-17.2
7 San Joaquin Valley.....	473	49.5	496	51.1	3.3
22 other counties.....	198	34.0	200	35.0	2.8

*Source: California population by county estimates from State Department of Finance, "Estimated Population of California's Areas and Counties, 1930-1955," November, 1955, p. 16.

†Computed from 1953 and 1954 commitment rates of two decimal places.

TABLE 5B
COUNTY OR AREA OF COMMITMENT
Women Prisoners Received From Court, 1953 and 1954

County or area of commitment	1953		1954		Percent change in rate 1954 over 1953†
	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	Number	Rate per 100,000 population*	
Total.....	179	1.5	229	1.8	23.8
Southern California.....	102	1.5	129	1.8	21.2
Los Angeles.....	64	1.3	79	1.6	17.2
9 other counties.....	38	1.7	50	2.2	27.9
San Francisco Bay area.....	51	1.7	35	1.8	4.7
Alameda.....	12	--	17	--	--
San Francisco.....	32	4.0	21	2.6	-34.6
7 other counties.....	7	--	17	--	--
Balance of State.....	26	1.2	43	2.0	71.4
10 Sacramento Valley.....	4	--	9	--	--
7 San Joaquin Valley.....	18	--	25	--	--
22 other counties.....	4	--	11	--	--

*Source: California population by county estimates from State Department of Finance, "Estimated Population of California's Areas and Counties, 1930-1955," November, 1955, p. 16.

†Computed from 1953 and 1954 commitment rates of two decimal places.

The increase in women commitments, as may be seen from the data presented in Table 5B, was general throughout all areas of the State with the exception of San Francisco County. Because of the relatively small number of women, too much significance cannot be attached to the differences observed in this table.

AGE AT ADMISSION

It is of interest to examine the data available on ages of those committed to prison. In Tables 6A and 6B the age data are shown for men and women, respectively, who were committed during 1953 and 1954. A comparison of the men committed during 1954 with those committed during 1953 shows there was a greater proportion between 25 and 35 years of age and a proportionately smaller group under 25. The percentage of those who were under 25 dropped from 31.3 in 1953 to 28.2 in 1954. While this shows a tendency to commit fewer youths to prison, it does not necessarily indicate less criminal activity on the part of the youths and young adults. The availability of the California Department of the Youth Authority facilities for those under 21, and the use of probation in the case of young offenders could account for the decreased proportion of those who are under 25 years of age. This slight

TABLE 6A
AGE AT ADMISSION
Male Prisoners Received From Court, 1953 and 1954

Age at admission in years	1953		1954	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	3,892	100.0	4,001	100.0
Under 20	111	2.9	102	2.5
15-17.....	9	..	..	..
18.....	34	..	22	..
19.....	68	..	80	..
20-24.....	1,108	28.4	1,028	25.7
20.....	143	..	142	..
21.....	206	..	206	..
22.....	265	..	251	..
23.....	269	..	183	..
24.....	225	..	246	..
25-29.....	970	24.9	1,060	26.5
30-34.....	578	14.9	626	15.6
35-39.....	391	10.0	411	10.3
40-44.....	286	7.4	315	7.9
45-49.....	201	5.2	212	5.3
50 and over.....	247	6.3	249	6.2
Median age.....	28.5		29.0	
Percent under 25.....	31.3		28.2	

TABLE 6B
AGE AT ADMISSION
Women Prisoners Received From Court, 1953 and 1954

Age at admission in years	1953		1954	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	179	100.0	229	100.0
Under 20.....	7	3.9	6	2.6
15-17.....	1	--	--	--
18.....	1	--	--	--
19.....	5	--	6	--
20-24.....	41	22.9	53	23.1
20.....	2	--	11	--
21.....	9	--	5	--
22.....	8	--	15	--
23.....	10	--	10	--
24.....	12	--	12	--
25-29.....	45	25.1	54	23.6
30-34.....	28	15.7	31	13.5
35-39.....	24	13.4	29	12.7
40 and over.....	34	19.0	56	24.5
Median age.....	29.6		30.3	
Percent under 25.....	26.8		25.7	

shift in age of prisoners received also is indicated in the rise in median age from 28.5 years for men committed during 1953 to 29.0 years for those received during 1954.

There were some shifts in the age of the women committed to prison, Table 6B. The median age for the women rose from 29.6 years to 30.3 years. The percentage of those committed who were under 25 decreased from 26.8 in 1953 to 25.7 in 1954. Of the women received each year over 40 years of age there was an increase from 19.0 percent to 24.5 percent.

PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

All persons committed to prison are classified by their prior criminal record on information received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports, the California Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation records, the pre-sentence probation reports, and personal interviews with the inmates while in the Reception-Guidance Center. On this information, prisoners are classified into three basic groups:

1. Those who have no record of prior commitment to jail, juvenile institutions, or prison.
2. Those who have a prior jail or juvenile commitment record only. Included in the latter group are prior commitments to Department of Youth Authority facilities or other state correctional schools and juvenile institutions or county juvenile forestry camps.

3. Those who have a record of a prior prison commitment, subdivided into one, two, three or more prison priors.

Data on prior criminal records of men and women newly committed to prison during 1953 and 1954 are shown in Table 7A and Table 7B. Of the men received during 1954, 48.7 percent had a prior jail or juvenile record only, 35.8 percent had prior prison commitments, and 15.5 percent had no prior criminal record. Of those with no prior commitments there was a smaller proportion received during 1954 than during the previous year, while there was an increase in proportionate size of the other two groups.

For the women also, the 1954 data indicate a smaller proportion of commitments with no prison record and an increased proportion of the other two groups, Table 7B.

TABLE 7A
PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
Male Prisoners Received From Court, 1953 and 1954

Type of prior commitment	1953		1954	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	5,492	100.0	4,003	100.0
No prior commitment	727	18.7	620	15.5
Prior jail or juvenile only	1,845	47.4	1,951	48.7
Prior prison commitment	1,320	33.9	1,432	35.8
One prior	719	18.5	763	19.1
Two priors	351	8.5	354	8.8
Three or more priors	270	6.9	316	7.9

TABLE 7B
PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD
Women Prisoners Received From Court, 1953 and 1954

Type of prior commitment	1953		1954	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	179	100.0	229	100.0
No prior commitment	79	44.1	94	41.1
Prior jail or juvenile only	81	46.4	110	48.0
Prior Prison commitment	17	9.5	25	10.9
One prior	13	7.3	16	7.0
Two priors	3	1.7	7	3.0
Three or more priors	1	0.5	2	0.9

PRISONERS RELEASED FROM PRISON

All persons convicted of felony offenses and sentenced to prison are committed for an indeterminate term with the minimum and maximum limits prescribed by law except those persons committed under the death penalty or for mandatory life sentences. Within these prescribed limits and restricted by certain statutory limitations, the Adult Authority determines the length of sentence for male felons, and the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women fixes and refixes the sentences for women. Statutory limitations on the sentencing power of these boards result from aggravated minimum sentences when possession of a deadly weapon at time of the offense or arrest, and/or previous conviction of a felony has been proved. Minimum sentence may also be increased in cases where a person is convicted of more than one felony and the court imposes consecutive sentences.

In addition these two sentencing boards are paroling boards and have the power to parole and establish release dates of all prisoners who have served a minimum time in prison necessary for parole release, except those under the death penalty and those serving life sentences without possibility of parole.

TIME SERVED BY PRISONERS RELEASED

Since imprisonment is always for certain specified periods of time determined by the law and administrative decision of the sentencing and paroling authorities, the length of time persons are kept in prison before release becomes a matter of major interest. Related to the amount of time served in prison are questions of the period of confinement required for different types of offenses and for different types of prisoners, as well as the amount of time prisoners should serve before release for their own rehabilitation and for the general protection of society. The establishment and operation of prisons is an expensive process. If the average amount of time required of prisoners rises, it adds to the prison load both in terms of greater numbers and greater expense. If the time decreases, it lessens the load both on the prison administration and on the taxpayer.

It is essential that the length of imprisonment be analyzed primarily in terms of the first release of a prisoner. At that point the sentence and the parole date have been set with reference to the original offense for which the person was committed. Thus the data should reveal the general pattern of time served as set by the sentencing authorities. The person who has been returned as a parole violator and is released a second or third time offers a more complicated problem with reference to time served. The time served by him involves both consideration of his original offense and also either of his new offense or of the technical

violation for which he was returned to prison. Some information will be reported on persons returned who subsequently were paroled or discharged at expiration of sentence, but it is of those released for the first time that study of the pattern of time served and its relation to other factors such as offense is of significance.

METHOD OF RELEASE

Nearly every person committed to prison is released sometime or another and returned to free society. This always has been true of all prison systems in the United States. In California, over the past 10 years, of the prisoners released for the first time after their original commitment, 88 percent of all releases were paroled, 10 percent were discharged at expiration of sentence, and 2 percent died in prison or were executed.

Data on adult male felons released from prison presented first in Table 2 are expanded in Table 8 to show more detailed information on those persons who were released for the first time and those who have been returned to prison as parole violators and subsequently were re-released. In 1953, first releases showed 85 percent paroled and approximately 13 percent discharged at expiration of sentence. In 1954 there was a slight increase in the proportion of those paroled, and a decrease in the proportion released at expiration.

TABLE 8
METHOD OF RELEASE
Male Prisoners Released From Prison, 1953 and 1954

Method of release	1953		1954	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	4,056	100.0	4,120	100.0
Parole.....	3,181	78.4	3,272	79.4
Expiration of sentence.....	822	20.3	776	18.8
Death or execution.....	53	1.3	72	1.8
First release.....	3,190	100.0	3,310	100.0
Parole.....	2,717	85.2	2,874	86.8
Expiration of sentence.....	429	13.4	379	11.5
Death or execution.....	44	1.4	57	1.7
Re-release.....	866		810	
After return with new commitment.....	374	100.0	323	100.0
Parole.....	299	79.9	251	77.7
Expiration of sentence.....	71	19.0	62	19.2
Death or execution.....	4	1.1	10	3.1
After return without new commitment.....	492	100.0	487	100.0
Parole.....	165	33.5	147	30.2
Expiration of sentence.....	322	65.5	335	68.8
Death or execution.....	5	1.0	5	1.0

There is a rather marked difference in the method of release of those persons who have been returned as parole violators. When a prisoner is returned for parole violation his original sentence is reset by the sentencing authority and a new determination is made as to whether he will be released on parole or remain in prison to the expiration of his sentence. Of those coming back as violators with an additional commitment to be served, about 80 percent were paroled again and about 19 percent served to expiration of sentence. But of those who were returned on a technical basis for parole violation, i.e., not having been recommitted to a California prison on a new offense, about one-third were reparaoled and about two-thirds remained in prison until expiration of sentence.

The practice of the Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women is to release practically every person on parole, see Table 2. In 1953, of the 201 women released from the institution, 200 were paroled and 1 died. In 1954, there were 2 discharged at expiration of sentence, 190 paroled, and 2 deaths.

PAROLE

Parole is the most common form of release as this system is connected closely to the use of the indeterminate sentence. Parole gives more adequate protection to the public through release under supervision of qualified officers, as opposed to discharge at expiration of sentence without any further supervision or control of the prisoner after release. Most states having the indeterminate sentence system parole the majority of their prisoners and California is no exception.

Data in this section on parole are presented separately for those released on first parole and the men released on second or more parole, for reasons stated in the beginning of this chapter. Because of the extremely small number of women reparaoled, 37 in 1953 and 42 in 1954, no data are presented on these cases.

First Parole

The number of men released on first parole during 1953 and 1954 and measures of time they served in prison are shown in Table 9A for offense groups of more than 25 cases. For all offenses combined the median time served was 30 months for each year. The range in time served by the middle 80 percent of the 1954 parolees was slightly lower, 15 to 54 months, than that for the 1953 group, 18 to 60 months.

Comparisons of time served for the individual offenses reveal no outstanding changes between the two years. For seven offense groups the median times served by the 1954 first parolees were shorter. Also for most of these same groups the upper limits of the ranges in time served by the middle 80 percent were slightly lower in 1954, indicating fewer cases with longer time served. For the offense of rape, the upper limit of the middle four-fifths was much lower. The other six offense groups with lower medians in 1954 were first and second degree murder, escape from jail, first degree burglary, auto theft, and lewd acts with children.

TABLE 9A
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
Male Prisoners Paroled for the First Time, 1953 and 1954
 Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown

Offense	1953			1954		
	Number	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total	2,717	30	18-60	2,874	30	15-54
Murder 1st.....	35	114	96-180	29	138	96-180
Murder 2d.....	41	65	36-111	50	60.5	42-106
Manslaughter.....	27	36	15-48	39	36	18-52
Robbery 1st.....	269	42	30-66	286	42	30-72
Robbery 2d.....	142	30	18-51	173	30	18-47
Assault with deadly weapon	74	30	18-48	60	30	17-40
Burglary 1st.....	84	39	27-66	69	36	27-60
Burglary 2d.....	463	27	18-48	517	27	17-43
Grand theft except auto.....	144	24	15-42	119	27	15-42
Auto theft.....	130	27	15-36	130	25.5	15-34
Forgery and checks.....	526	24	15-39	615	24	15-36
Rape.....	85	45	18-106	72	39	15-78
Lewd acts with children.....	75	51	30-86	90	48	30-89
Narcotics.....	282	24	15-36	329	27	16-38
Escape from jail.....	43	21	12-37	35	15	12-28
Other offenses.....	297	--	--	247	--	--

TABLE 9B
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON
Women Prisoners Paroled for the First Time, 1953 and 1954
 Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown

Offense	1953			1954		
	Number	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total.....	161	24	17-36	148	23	17-33
Forgery and checks.....	52	25	18-33	49	23	17-33
Narcotics.....	37	19	14-26	33	20	18-25
Other offenses.....	74	--	--	66	--	--

A slightly longer time was served by the narcotics offenders released during 1954 as indicated by the rise in the time measures of median and 80 percent range. The median time served by the grand theft except auto offenders first paroled during 1954 was slightly longer than that of the 1953 group, but the ranges for the middle four-fifths of these cases clustered between practically the same limits each year.

The lengths of time served by the women released on first parole during 1953 and 1954 are presented in Table 9B for the only two offense groups in which there were more than 25 cases. For all offenses combined the median time served by the women released during 1954 was 23 months, one month less than the 1953 group. The middle 80 percent of the 1954 cases served from 17 to 33 months. Compared with the men, the women forgers and check writers served about the same median time before first parole release. The women narcotic offenders served a somewhat shorter time than the men; the medians of time served for the 1953 and the 1954 first parolees were five and seven months shorter and the upper limits of the 80 percent ranges were 10 and 13 months shorter.

Reparole

Time served by the men returned to prison with a new commitment and subsequently repared was about twice as long as the time served by the men returned without a new commitment, i.e., for technical violation. Annual data on the men repared during 1953 and 1954 are given in Table 10, by status of parolee at the time of return to prison from the last parole.

Those repared during 1954 after having been returned with a new commitment served a median time of 44 months after return, and the technical violators served 20 months; both median times were two months longer than served by the 1953 repareds.

TABLE 10
STATUS AT RETURN FROM PAROLE AND TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE REPAROLE
Male Prisoners Repared From Prison, 1953 and 1954

Status at return from parole	1953			1954		
	Number	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total.....	464	--	--	398	--	--
With new commitment.....	299	42	30-60	251	44	30-72
Without new commitment....	165	18	10-39	147	20	10-43

TABLE 11

**OFFENSE OF MEN FIRST RELEASED AND STATUS AT RETURN OF MEN
RE-RELEASED AND TIME SERVED**

Male Prisoners Discharged From Prison at Expiration of Sentence, 1953 and 1954

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases either year are shown
Median and range shown only for 25 or more cases

Offense and status at return	1953			1954		
	Number	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total	822	—	—	776	—	—
First release	429	24	12-60	379	24	12-60
Burglary 2d	51	36	18-60	61	27	18-60
Grand theft except auto	27	24	15-60	28	25.5	12-40
Auto theft	25	24	15-50	38	25.5	15-44
Petty theft with prior	58	24	12-36	43	24	12-36
Forgery and checks	59	36	18-60	61	31	18-48
Narcotics	27	24	12-48	18	—	—
Escape from jail	72	12	10-24	55	12	12-24
Other offenses	110	—	—	75	—	—
Re-release	393	—	—	397	—	—
With new commitment	71	48	36-65	62	48.5	36-72
Without new commitment	322	20.5	12-32	335	20	10-32

DISCHARGE AT EXPIRATION OF SENTENCE

Data on time served by the men discharged from prison at expiration of sentence during 1953 and 1954 are shown in Table 11. Analyses of time served by the discharged men are made separately for the three different types of discharged prisoners which are: those who spent their entire sentences in prison without ever being paroled, those who had been returned to prison as parole violators with a new commitment, and those who had been returned for technical parole violation.

Men in the first-named classification who were discharged during 1954 served a median time of two years, and the middle 80 percent served from one to five years. Those men who had been returned to prison as parole violators with a new commitment served after return a median time twice as long as those first released. Those returned without a new commitment served a median time of 20 months after return. There was practically no change noted in the medians of time served in prison by each of the three groups discharged during 1954 compared with medians of the respective groups discharged in 1953.

Time served by the offense groups having more than 25 cases either year is presented for the men first released. Although a much shorter median time was served by the second degree burglars discharged dur-

ing 1954 than during 1953, the ranges in time served by the middle 80 percent were exactly the same for each year. The forgers and check writers discharged during 1954 served a shorter time than those who were discharged during the previous year.

DEATH

There were 47 deaths of California prisoners during 1953 and 69 during 1954. Of the deaths occurring in 1953, there were 45 adult male felons, 1 Youth Authority boy, and 1 adult woman felon. In 1954, those who died were 63 adult male felons, 1 Youth Authority boy, 3 male recalcitrant tuberculars, and 2 adult women felons, Table 2.

EXECUTION

Each death penalty sentence from a California superior court has an automatic appeal to the Supreme Court, and no execution is administered until such judgment is ratified by the Supreme Court. In California, 8 men were executed during 1953 and 9 during 1954. All received capital punishment for first degree murder.

PAROLE POPULATION AND MOVEMENT

The boards which authorize the releases from prison by establishment of the parole dates are the same administrative boards responsible for the supervision of those persons while on parole. The Division of Adult Paroles, administered by the Adult Authority, is responsible for the supervision of male parolees. The Board of Trustees of the California Institution for Women is responsible for the supervision of women parolees.

Annual data relating to male parole population and movement are furnished for 1953 and 1954 in Table 12A. The parole population on December 31, 1954, was 6,176 men, which was an increase of 548 men from the population of 5,628 on December 31, 1953. Of the 6,176 population at the close of 1954, 4,943 men were being supervised in California, 657 were under cooperative supervision in other states, and 576 were serving parole either in custody or after deportation by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Male parolees supervised in California on December 31, 1954, totaled 5,571. These consisted of the 4,943 men released from the California prisons plus 628 men paroled from other states and authorized to be

TABLE 12A
MOVEMENT OF MALE PAROLE POPULATION AND PLACE OF SUPERVISION
1953 and 1954

Movement	1953				1954			
	Total	Supervised in California	Other states	Deport or Custody	Total	Supervised in California	Other states	Deport or Custody
Population, January 1.....	5,015	3,777	729	519	5,628	4,408	678	542
Total received on parole.....	5,166	4,544	443	179	5,002	4,422	402	178
Paroled from prison.....	3,181	2,773	237	171	3,273	2,858	240	174
Reinstated after suspension.....	249	151	55	3	253	196	55	2
By transfer.....	1,736	1,620	111	5	1,477	1,568	107	2
Total removed from parole.....	4,583	3,913	494	176	4,454	3,887	423	144
Discharged*.....	1,565	971	273	118	1,429	1,078	258	93
Suspended.....	1,393	1,247	128	18	1,491	1,383	109	10
Died.....	89	65	21	3	55	45	10	—
By transfer.....	1,736	1,627	72	37	1,477	1,381	55	41
Population, December 31.....	5,628	4,408	678	542	6,176	4,943	657	576
Population change.....	583	611	51	3	548	535	-21	34

*Includes 30 men pardoned in 1953 and five men pardoned in 1954.

supervised by California officers under the provisions of the Interstate Compact. However, the parole population discussed in this chapter relates only to those men on parole from California prisons.

During 1954, there were 3,272 men who entered parole upon release from California prisons and 253 restored or reinstated after suspension. The 1,477 movements by transfer are merely an accounting method of those persons who move from one location of parole supervision to another but remain on parole. There were 1,484 men whose paroles were terminated by discharge, pardon, or death, and 1,493 men suspended for violation of parole.

During 1953 and 1954, the women parole population increased by 101, 67 in 1953 and 34 in 1954, making a total of 430 on December 31, 1954, Table 12B. Of this population, 379, or 88 percent, were being supervised in California. In addition to these 379, the women parole officers were caring for 35 women parolees in California from prisons in other states, so that the active supervisory load was 414. The number of women paroled for deportation or to custody is so small that this count is included with those paroled out of state. In contrast to the parole movement figures for the men which show just about as many suspensions as final removals, those for the women show that nearly twice as many were removed from parole by suspension or violation

TABLE 12B
MOVEMENT OF WOMEN PAROLE POPULATION AND PLACE OF SUPERVISION
1953 and 1954

Movement	1953			1954		
	Total	Supervised in California	Other states*	Total	Supervised in California	Other states*
Population, January 1.....	329	267	62	396	342	54
Total received on parole.....	270	249	21	271	251	20
Paroled from prison.....	200	185	15	190	173	17
Reinstated after suspension.....	52	31	1	66	65	1
By transfer.....	58	33	5	15	13	2
Total removed from parole.....	261	174	29	257	214	23
Discharged.....	58	41	15	66	50	16
Suspended.....	105	98	7	152	146	6
Died.....	2	2	--	4	4	--
By transfer.....	38	31	7	15	14	1
Population, December 31.....	156	142	54	430	379	51
Population change.....	67	75	-8	34	37	-3

*1953 includes two women in deport or custody as of 1/1/53, of whom one was discharged and one transferred to California supervision during 1953. 1954 includes two paroled to deport or custody during year and in such status as of 12/31/54.

†Includes five women pardoned in 1953.

as were terminated by discharge or death. However, data for the women also show a relatively high number of reinstatements after suspension. The ratio of reinstatements to suspensions for the women was about 30 for each 100, and for the men it was only about 18 for each 100.

DISCHARGE FROM PAROLE

Persons who are discharged from parole have completed their sentences for some felony offense or offenses. Most of the persons discharged from parole supervision were serving their original parole from prison, but a few were persons who had been re-released after one or more returns to prison for parole violation. Those discharged from first parole and those released from reparole are reviewed separately.

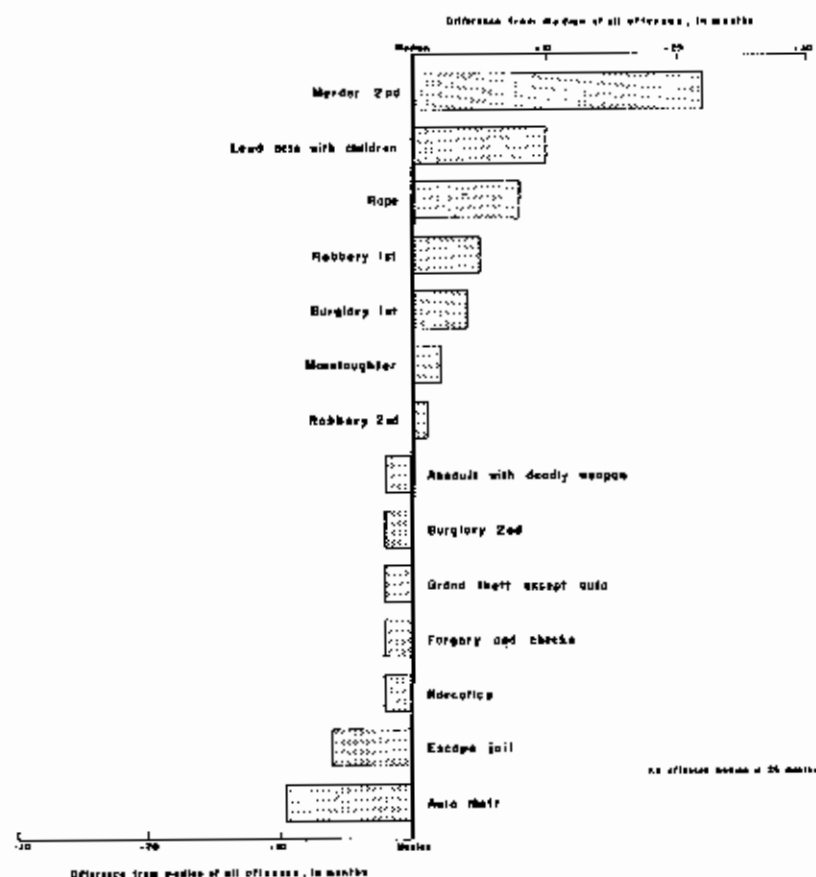
Year-by-year comparisons of time served on parole by men discharged from first parole during 1950-1954, Table 13A, indicate an increase in length of time on parole before discharge during the five-year period. The median time served by all first parolees was 24 months before discharge in 1950 and in 1951, it advanced to 27 months during 1952 and 1953, and then rose to 30 months for those discharged during 1954. For those who were reparaoled after having been returned to prison with a new commitment, the medians fluctuated between 25 and 29 months, the lower medians being during the last two years. Likewise, the medians of time served by those reparaoled after being returned without an additional commitment have oscillated between 15 and 21 months, with the lowest median of the five-year period being in 1954.

TABLE 13A
TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED ON PAROLE BY YEAR
Male Parolees Discharged From Parole, 1950-1954

Year	First parole		Reparole after return to prison			
			With new commitment		Without new commitment	
	Number	Median time served on parole in months	Number	Median time served on parole in months	Number	Median time served on parole in months
Total 1950-1954.....	5,758	26	289	27	402	18
1950.....	1,073	24	48	28.5	97	19
1951.....	1,168	24	56	27.5	82	18
1952.....	1,043	27	39	29	84	20
1953.....	1,191	27	71	27	73	21
1954.....	1,283	30	75	25	66	15

The median time spent on first parole by men discharged during the five-year period was 26 months for all offenses combined. Chart III shows the differences between this over-all median and the medians of each offense group having more than 25 cases. The second-degree murderers spent a median time on parole 22 months longer than the over-all

OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED ON PAROLE

Male Discharged From First Parole
1950-1954

median, while the men completing sentences for auto theft spent a median time on parole 9½ months shorter.

The number of women discharged from parole is so small that there are only enough cases to compute medians of time served for the yearly groups of the first parolees and for the five-year total of reparolees who had been returned to prison without a new commitment, Table 13B. An indication of the great increase in the amount of parole time first parolees have served before discharge is the constant rise between the

TABLE 13B

TYPE OF PAROLE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED ON PAROLE BY YEAR
Women Parolees Discharged From Parole, 1950-1954

Year	First parole		Repeaters after return to prison			
	Number	Median time served on parole in months	With new commitment		Without new commitment	
			Number	Median time served on parole in months	Number	Median time served on parole in months
Total 1950-1954.....	249	25	1	..	26	22
1950.....	54	21	..	..	1	..
1951.....	55	26	..	..	5	..
1952.....	37	26	..	..	5	..
1953.....	45	28	1	..	7	..
1954.....	60	33	..	..	6	..

TABLE 14A

OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED ON PAROLE
Male First Parolees Discharged From Parole, 1953 and 1954

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown

Offense	1953			1954		
	Number	Time served in months		Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total.....	1,191	27	19-36	1,283	30	18-39
Murder 2d.....	36	48	30-240	29	48	32-74
Manslaughter.....	35	27	18-36	47	30	24-36
Robbery 1st.....	154	32	24-40	186	31	27-42
Robbery 2d.....	73	27	20-39	75	30	18-36
Assault with deadly weapon.....	48	28.5	23-36	50	27	18-36
Burglary 1st.....	43	30	17-36	41	33	24-41
Burglary 2d.....	174	24	18-36	211	24	18-36
Grand theft except auto.....	84	24	20-26	60	28.5	18-36
Auto theft.....	47	23	12-33	49	22	12-30
Forgery and checks.....	194	24	18-31	207	24	18-36
Rape.....	40	33.5	24-83	38	36	27-47
Lewd acts with children.....	64	35.5	24-30	35	36	24-43
Narcotics.....	61	24	18-30	66	24	15-30
Other offenses.....	138	..	..	189	..	..

median time served by those discharged during 1950 and by those dismissed during 1954. The women first parolees discharged during 1950 had a median of 21 months on parole and those discharged during 1954 had a median of 33 months, one year longer. There was a five-month increase in time served between the median of 28 months for the women discharged during 1953, and the median of 33 months for those of 1954.

Offense and median time served on parole by men discharged from first parole for the years 1953 and 1954 are given in Table 14A. While the over-all median rose from 27 months in 1953 to 30 months in 1954 and the upper range of the middle four-fifths of the cases rose from 36 months in 1953 to 39 months in 1954, there were two offense groups in which the median time was slightly lower during 1954 than the previous year. These were assault with deadly weapon and auto theft. Offenses for which the medians were identical for each year were second-degree murder, second-degree burglary, forgery and checks, and narcotics. For the other offenses, the medians were higher in 1954 than in 1953, the rise being three months in the cases of manslaughter, second-degree robbery, first-degree burglary, and over five months in the case of grand theft except auto.

The number of women discharged each year is so limited that no generalizations can be made from individual offenses on an annual basis. For the four offense groups which had more than 25 women discharged from first parole during the five-year period 1950-1954, the median time served and the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases are given in Table 14B. A comparison of the medians of these few offense groups indicates that the women convicted of forgery and checks, grand theft except auto, or manslaughter spent from 1 to 2½ months longer on parole and those convicted of narcotics served about seven months less than the over-all median time of 25 months.

It is of some interest to note for first parolees, the relationship of time served before release from prison with time spent on parole before final

TABLE 14B
OFFENSE AND TIME SERVED ON PAROLE
Women First Parolees Discharged From Parole, 1950-1954

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown

Offense	Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total.....	216	25	12-43
Manslaughter.....	49	26	18-46
Grand theft except auto.....	31	27	18-41
Forgery and checks.....	46	27.5	15-39
Narcotics.....	27	18	9-31
Other offenses.....	96	--	--

TABLE 15A

OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGEMale Prisoners Paroled From Prison for First Time and Male First
Parolees Discharged From Parole, 1954

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown

Offense	Median time served in months	
	In prison before parole	On parole before discharge
Total	30	30
Murder 2d.	60.5	48
Manslaughter	30	30
Robbery 1st.	42	33
Robbery 2d.	30	30
Assault with deadly weapon	30	27
Burglary 1st.	16	13
Burglary 2d.	27	19
Grand theft except auto.	27	24.5
Auto theft	25.5	12
Forgery and checks	24	24
Rape	19	36
Lewd acts with children	49	46
Narcotics	27	24

discharge. Comparisons of the median time served in prison by men first paroled during 1954 and the median parole time of the men discharged from first parole during 1954 are given in Table 15A for those offense groups in which there were more than 25 cases. For all offenses combined, the median prison time of 30 months equaled the median parole time. In comparing the data in this table one factor should be recognized. The persons who were discharged from parole during 1954 had been released from prison an average of some two to three years earlier and time served in prison has increased to some extent during the last two or three years. One fact that comes from this comparison is that the longer the over-all sentence, the greater the difference between the part served in prison and the portion served on parole, with the part served in prison being considerably greater. This will be seen in the data shown for murder second degree, robbery first degree, and lewd acts with children.

When studying the changes in time served by the women, it is again necessary to combine five years of data as the annual numbers of cases are so small. The medians of time served by women in prison before first parole and on first parole before discharge during 1950-1954 are presented in Table 15B by the four offense groups having more than

TABLE 15B

OFFENSE AND MEDIAN TIME SERVED IN PRISON BEFORE PAROLE
AND ON PAROLE BEFORE DISCHARGEWomen Prisoners Paroled From Prison for First Time and Women First
Parolees Discharged From Parole, 1950-1954

Only offense groups with more than 25 cases are shown

Offense	Median time served in months	
	In prison before parole	On parole before discharge
Total.....	25	25
Misdemeanor.....	25	26
Grand Off., except auto.....	15	17
Reentry and other.....	25	27.4
Narcotics.....	20	18

25 cases each. For all offense groups combined, the median of 25 months served in prison was the same as the median time served on parole. In consideration of the already noted trend of longer periods of time on parole, it is probable that the medians shown in this table for the five years combined may be somewhat less than the time that has been required of the parolees discharged during the more recent years.

SUSPENSION

When either a man or a woman violates parole the sentencing board orders a suspension from parole, and time served toward the term stops until the parolee is returned to prison or is reinstated on parole. In Table 16 are shown data on all California male parolees, supervised in this State and out of state, who were suspended during 1953 and 1954. The men whose paroles were suspended are divided in three groups: those who violated technical provisions of their parole, those who had absconded and their whereabouts were unknown at the time of suspension designated PVAL, for parole violator at large, and those who were charged with new offenses. For each of these three groups is shown the ratio of the number suspended per 1,000 average parole population for the year. Between 1953 and 1954, while the over-all ratio per 1,000 average case load shows a reduction from 262 in 1953 to 250 in 1954, there was a slight increase in the ratio of technical violators, a rather substantial decrease in the ratio of PVAL suspensions, and a very slight decrease in the ratio of those suspended because of additional criminal offense charges.

For the California male parolees who were suspended from supervision in California during 1954, the reasons for suspension and lengths of time on parole before violation are given in Table 17. The median time between release from prison and violation of parole was 6 months, and the range of the middle 80 percent of the cases was from 1 to 18 months. One-half of those suspended for technical reasons and for

TABLE 17

REASON FOR SUSPENSION AND TIME ON PAROLE BEFORE VIOLATION
Male Parolees Suspended from Supervision in California, 1954

Reason for suspension	Number	Time served in months	
		Median	Range of middle 80%
Total.....	1,383	6	1-18
Technical.....	139	5	1-22
PVAL.....	398	5	1-46
Criminal charge.....	846	6	2-19

absconding were on parole 5 months or less before violating, and 50 percent of those suspended because of new criminal charges spent 6 months or less on parole before violating.

A study of information on the violations of each annual class of men paroled to California supervision is of further interest. The proportion of parolees who were suspended during the year of parole and during each successive year thereafter through the four complete years after the year of parole is shown on a cumulative basis in Table 18A. The great majority of those who violate generally do so by the completion of the second year following the year of parole. There has been in recent years a decrease in the proportion who violate. For the 1950 parolees, 41.8 percent had violated by the end of the first year following the year of parole, and for the 1953 parolees the proportion was 39.7 percent. Similar decreases are noted in the percentage who were suspended the same year as paroled and in the second year following the year of parole.

The cumulative percentage of all women parolees suspended for the first time is presented for each successive year of parole in Table 18B. For the 1954 women parolees, 25.8 percent had been suspended during the year of parole, while for 1950 parolees this percentage had been

TABLE 18A

CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF PAROLEES SUSPENDED EACH YEAR AFTER PAROLE
Male Parolees Suspended After Paroled to Supervision in California, 1950-1954

Year during which suspended	Year of parole				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number paroled.....	1,981	2,171	2,119	2,773	2,858
Year of parole.....	18.7	19.1	15.4	16.1	15.1
1st year after parole.....	41.8	40.5	39.1	39.7	
2d year after parole.....	47.8	47.4	46.3		
3d year after parole.....	49.2	48.8			
4th year after parole.....	49.3				

TABLE 188

CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF PAROLEES SUSPENDED EACH YEAR AFTER PAROLE
 Women Parolees Suspended for the First Time, 1950-1954

Year during which suspended	Year of parole				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number paroled	163	115	177	206	190
Year of parole	14.7	15.6	15.8	19.5	25.8
1st year after parole	30.7	35.7	33.3	42.0	
2d year after parole	36.2	40.0	44.6		
3d year after parole	38.7	47.0			
4th year after parole	39.9				

only 14.7. By the end of the first year after parole, 30.7 percent of the 1950 parolees had been suspended as compared with 42.0 percent of the 1953 parolee class. In recent years there has been an increase in the proportion who violated during the first few years after parole.

REINSTATEMENT

A number of persons who have been declared violators are reinstated to active parole supervision without being returned to prison. The most common situation in which this occurs is in relation to parole absconders who, when their whereabouts are discovered, are found to have been in no further trouble and usually are supporting themselves or their families and their only dereliction was in not having kept in contact with their parole supervisors. Another group of persons who are reinstated frequently are persons who have been convicted of new offenses, and who having served a term of imprisonment either in jail or in prison in another state are restored to parole under active supervision at the completion of their terms of incarceration, as it is felt that no constructive purpose would be served by returning them to a California prison for additional confinement.

For each year of the period 1950-1954, the number of men reinstated with the reason for suspension is given in Table 19, along with the ratio of the number of reinstatements to 100 average number of suspensions for the two-year period which includes the year of reinstatement and the previous year. This averaging of a two-year period has been used as it was found that three-fourths of all reinstatements occurred within two years following suspension.

There has been some rise and fall in the ratio of those reinstated to those suspended, being 17 per 100 suspensions for the years 1950 and 1951, rising to 21 in 1952 and decreasing to 18 in 1954. By looking at the reason for suspension and its relation to reinstatement, it will be seen that most reinstatements were of men who had absconded. There was a ratio of from 21 to 32 reinstatements per 100 suspensions for persons who were PVAI, i.e., parole violators at large. For men who were

TABLE 19
 NUMBER OF REINSTATEMENTS, RATIO OF REINSTATEMENTS PER 100 AVERAGE SUSPENSIONS AND
 REASON FOR SUSPENSION BY YEAR
 Male Parolees Reinstated on Parole, 1950-1954

Year	Total			Technical			P.V.M.			Criminal cause	
	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspensions*	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspensions*	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspensions*	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspensions*	Number	Ratio per 100 average suspensions*	
Total 1950-1954.....	1,140	18	17	4	510	25	59	16	101	16	
1950.....	193	17	3	3	84	21	10	16	101	16	
1951.....	104	17	3	4	86	21	10	13	101	13	
1952.....	249	21	3	6	126	31	12	17	101	17	
1953.....	249	20	3	4	121	28	13	17	101	17	
1954.....	251	18	4	1	121	27	12	15	101	15	

*Ratio based on two-year average number of cases suspended during the year indicated and the previous year.

suspended because of criminal charges, the ratio of reinstatements was from 15 to 17 per 100 suspensions. For those who were suspended on purely technical grounds, the ratio for the five years combined was 4 reinstatements per 100 suspensions, and for the year 1954, was only 1 per 100 suspensions.

It has been noted earlier that there was a higher rate of reinstatements of women. The following data show the number of reinstatements of women parolees during each of the last five years, and the ratio of reinstatements to 100 average number of suspensions for the two-year period:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of reinstatements</i>	<i>Ratio per 100 average suspensions for two years</i>
Total 1950-1954	177	43
1950	17	30
1951	23	38
1952	39	53
1953	32	34
1954	66	52

The ratio of reinstatements per 100 women parolees suspended ranged from a low of 30 during 1950 to a high of 53 during 1952 and rose close to that high point again in 1954, being 52. Per 100 suspensions, the women reinstated about 2½ times as many as did the men.